

with an update on the organization's progress and growth.

It is with great honor that I stand here today and recognize Wanda Samek. Her inauguration as president of the National Society of Accountants is a testament to her commitment to the association and her professional career. I am honored to congratulate a constituent from my district on attaining this well-deserved position.

RECOGNIZING JEREMY CHRISTOPHER WOOD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremy Christopher Wood of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jeremy will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Jeremy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Jeremy has been involved with scouting he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremy Christopher Wood for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Wood in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE SRI CHINMOY MARATHON TEAM

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team for their organization and participation of the World Harmony Run 2005.

Commencing April 16, the World Harmony Run seeks to advance international camaraderie through bringing together runners from more than seventy countries and all fifty states. The goal of this event is to promote genuine goodwill and understanding of cultures through a 10,000 mile trek that will come to an end on August 14th. This event was inspired by Sri Chinmoy in 1987 through his vision of sport as a means of furthering international harmony.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the participants of the World Harmony Run 2005. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the diligent work of the many volunteers involved in World Harmony Run 2005 and the members of the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes numbered 454 and 455. Rollcall vote 454 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to, H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific. Rollcall vote 455 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to, S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 454 and 455.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3645 to provide emergency supplemental appropriations to meet the immediate needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina. But more importantly, I rise today in support of the hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who are suffering throughout the Gulf Coast States as a result of what has been called our Nation's greatest natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina. I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I say our prayers are with each and everyone of them as they struggle through these extremely difficult and life threatening times.

The supplemental legislation we are approving today is absolutely critical to continue the infusion of federal funding into this area. News agencies have reported the cost of this disaster to be around \$500 million a day. The \$10.5 billion in federal funding we are approving today should be viewed as a down payment in terms of funding and resources to come in the following months. I am confident these resources will be used efficiently and effectively, helping those most in need and importantly, helping to support emergency protective measures as well as debris removal and rehabilitation.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency should be recognized for its response to this disaster and their organization of food, water, medical supplies, generators, shelter and other items to help those who have been displaced due to Hurricane Katrina. And the Department of Defense and National Guard should be recognized for the deployment of military personnel who are helping communities respond to this crisis.

I know personally that every State is pooling their resources and is doing all it can to help these victims in the Gulf Coast area. For example in my home State of Delaware, we have deployed National Guard troops and

planes to help at Ground Zero and in the surrounding disaster areas; Delaware State University is waiving tuition for Tulane University students to attend class; my office is working with the Food Bank of Delaware to start a Hunger Drive for those in need; local schools are collecting monetary donations to send to the victims; and, Delmarva Power is sending workers to restore electricity in the region. But I am confident we can reach even deeper and partner together to help our fellow Americans.

It is always in times of tragedy—like the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 or the Tsunami this past December in Southeast Asia—where human decency and patriotism is front and center. We need to muster the same resources and patriotism and provide the same help to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

I am hopeful the Federal Government will continue to respond in a way that is appropriate, action oriented and immediate to the Gulf Coast Region. As I have said, the funding we are approving today, is just the beginning. I expect a more comprehensive package to reach the House Floor in the coming weeks, once more precise estimates are understood.

These are very sad and trying times. May God Bless those in need and their families.

FRANCHISING APPRECIATION DAY

**HON. RICHARD H. BAKER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome over 300 franchisee, franchisor, and franchise supplier members of the International Franchise Association who are visiting Washington on September 13 as part of "Franchise Appreciation Day," the IFA's annual fly-in to the Nation's Capital.

As I am sure my colleagues are aware, the IFA is the world's oldest and largest trade association representing the franchise community with a membership roster that includes more than 1,000 franchisors, 8,000 franchisees and 400 suppliers.

Franchising is a driving force of our economy and generates \$1.53 trillion in economic output and one-of-every-seven jobs in the Nation's private-sector economy, according to a study conducted for the IFA Educational Foundation by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The "Economic Impact of Franchised Businesses" study found that there are more than 760,000 franchised small businesses in the U.S., generating more than 18 million jobs.

Those statistics are impressive enough on their own, but of particular concern and interest to me is the initiative the International Franchise Association has taken to help our veterans move from their service in the armed forces into the world of franchise ownership. Through the Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative, commonly known as "VetFran," 360 veterans have been assisted in purchasing their own franchise small business, and 120 more are in various stages of negotiation.

VetFran was established by Don Dwyer, the late founder of The Dwyer Group and an IFA leader, during Operation Desert Storm. It was re-initiated following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The program requires that participating franchisors offer veterans their "best deal" through discounts or other incentives that are determined by each company,